



NEWS RELEASE

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Border Patrol provides air rescue to stranded flood victims *Officials in Mexico, Sutton County request helicopter support*

DEL RIO, TEXAS – Del Rio Sector Border Patrol agents and aircraft participated in the rescue of five people in two separate incidents over the past two days.

On Monday, Oct. 7, officials in Sutton County requested support, from agents at the San Angelo Border Patrol Station, in rescuing occupants of a recreational vehicle that had been swept away by rushing floodwaters. Sutton County deputies and Sonora firefighters had located the vehicle in a flooded, fast-running draw 400 feet off County Road 406, but were unable to reach it. Two BORSTAR (Border Patrol Search Trauma and Rescue) agents from the Del Rio Border Patrol checkpoint on Highway 277 were dispatched to assist local authorities, and a helicopter from Del Rio Border Patrol Air Operations was sent to the site to extract the victims.

Upon the arrival of the Border Patrol helicopter, the occupants of the RV were able to climb onto the roof of the vehicle, where they were picked up and transported to dry land.

On Tuesday, Oct. 8, Del Rio Sector Headquarters received a request for air support across the Rio Grande, in Mexico. Del Rio Fire Department officials advised Border Patrol that they had received information that several people there were trapped on rooftops surrounded by rising floodwaters.

After clearing the mission with U.S. authorities and officials in Mexico, Del Rio Air Ops dispatched a helicopter, carrying two Sector pilots and two rescue personnel from Del Rio Fire Department. Arriving at the town of Jimenez, Coahuila, they began a downriver search, locating two men stranded on a rooftop four miles south of town. The men were safely lifted off the roof and released to Mexican officials at the scene.

~ USBP ~